

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 2, Folder 7

October 25, 1948 -
December 16, 1948

0204

25 October 1948

Dear Willingham:

I am sending you under separate cover a personal copy of the Battle of the Coral Sea. You may retain it or return it as you see fit.

I have received very many friendly letters and comments concerning the Battle of the Coral Sea from many sources. I sincerely hope that I shall receive the same or more concerning the Battle of Midway. Midway was a much greater job than we had anticipated, primarily because of the fact that Captain Smith got detached in November just after he had got on to the back-ground, and Captain Ashford was taken sick for two months in the spring which resulted generally in two rather three officers working on the book. However, it is now out and is obtainable from the operations' files.

I noted with great interest that you had been with Count Bernadotte in Palestine. What an experience that was. Some day I hope to have you tell me about it.

Your cousin is up here, and the other day I talked to him about you. He seemed to know less about you than I did, so I was pleased to be able to give him some information.

Please remember me most kindly to Mrs. Willingham. With warmest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Capt. S. D. Willingham, USN
DCNO (Logistics)
Naval Operations
Navy Department
Washington, D.C.

0205

25 October 1948

Dear Admiral Theobald:

I cannot thank you too much for discovering my coat. I have always liked that coat as it was difficult to crush it and as the camel's hair effect is soft. When I found that I had lost that coat I notified the police and my club, and I called up numerous families with whom I had been recently associated, to see if they couldn't find it. In all cases the answer was a definite no. I was therefore of the opinion that the coat had been stolen, and everyone thought that the scene of the robbery was the stalls in the rear of the Reading Room. Now I discover how wrong I was! Very frankly, I never thought of Marblehead.

I see your son and daughter-in-law at intervals--in fact Robert was in Trinity Church yesterday morning. Both Bobby and his wife are fine.

I am sending you by separate letter a copy of the Battle of Midway for your personal use. If you decide you cannot handle it or don't care to have it, it is solely necessary to return it to us. Two envelopes are enclosed for this purpose.

I should like very much to come up there and see you, and one of these days I will. However, as the weather is getting bad and my need of a civilian coat for every day use is great, I should appreciate your kindness if you would mail it to me now.

I am awfully pleased that you liked my comments concerning yourself, your wife and your home, as well as the comments concerning your sister in California. Everything I said was absolutely true as always.

With warmest personal regards, I am as ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. Bates

R. Adm. Robert A. Theobald
Edgewater, Peaches Point
Marblehead, Mass.

0206

25 October 1948

Dear Russell:

It has been a year since you left this establishment. Needless to say, you have been missed the entire time. I was very unhappy when you were detached and I became more and more unhappy when I discovered that they had no intention of sending a relief, despite their promises to the President of the War College.

After your detachment, Captain Ashford in the spring got arthritis of the hip, and he went to the hospital for two months. So then Richardson and I did the final research work. Everybody contributed a very good share though to the research work and analysis. I am appreciative of your assistance.

I am sending you a copy of the Battle of Midway for your personal use and which you may retain. I hope that you find the book what you expected should you get a chance to read it. I should appreciate a comment from you pro or con.

Please give my warmest regards to Vice Admiral Badger, for whom I always had a great affection.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Capt. Russell S. Smith, USN
Staff-Commander Naval Forces
Western Pacific
USS ESTES (AGC-12)
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

0207

25 October 1948

Dear Ramage:

Some months ago I sent you a copy of the Battle of the Coral Sea which I hope you will return for the file. In replacement I am sending you a copy of the Coral Sea and a copy of Midway for your personal files.

For your information I have received a number of friendly comments concerning the Battle of the Coral Sea. I trust that I will receive equally friendly comments concerning Midway. Needless to say, I appreciated your help. This help was more and more valuable as more and more research was made by us. Thank you!

I still insist that some day I am coming out to see your son and heir, but my automobile and me have been more or less out of company for months. The engine began misbehaving; then a taxi hit me; neither job has been as yet accepted and my car is at the present moment back in the garage.

I hope that you will enjoy your duty with Admiral Johnson. I personally think that you have a fine job and are getting more and more rounded. Please be sure that the rounding is mental and not physical.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Commander Donald B. Ramage, USN
Commander Destroyers, U.S. Atlantic Fleet
Fleet Post Office
New York, N.Y.

0208

25 October 1948

Dear Commander Richardson:

We have not as yet been able to find that book which you say was left here. All of the War College staff--that is, the Archives staff--insist that you never left it at all. Perhaps you are mistaken--perhaps it is in your boxes somewhere. If it is, please return it--if it is not, please forget about it.

I am sending you a printed copy of the Battle of Midway for your personal files. I hope that you will enjoy having it.

With best luck to yourself and to your wife, and with hope that your cruise at sea is enjoyable and profitable, I am

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Commander David C. Richardson, USN
Comdr. Attack Carrier Air Group 13
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

0209

27 October 1948

My dear Miss Fellows:

It was extremely kind of you to invite me to visit your new clinic on alcoholism on Friday afternoon, October 29th. I regret exceedingly that I am unable to be present, particularly in view of the fact that Governor Shannon of Connecticut will be present at that time.

I cannot imagine what it was that impelled you to ask me to a clinic on alcoholism. I frankly admit that I enjoy a wee "drappie" on occasions, but I have not as yet had occasion to feel that I had reached the point of being a clinical patient. As a naval officer I admit that I have a certain limited knowledge on the employment of alcohol as a stimulator to a feeling of well being, but my association with pure alcoholics is almost entirely zero.

I suppose that Governor Shannon feels somewhat as I do in this matter, but it is assumed that he represents the state in an official capacity whereas my presence would necessarily be unofficial.

Once again let me thank you for your kindness in asking me to view your clinic, and with hopes that I shall never have occasion to enter it, I am as ever,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Miss Alice M. Fellows
Commission on Alcoholism
159 Main St.
Stamford, Conn.

0210

1 November 1948

Dear Mike:

This is merely a note to express to you the great gratification which I experienced in being one of your guests on Saturday night at the Clambake Club. The affair was beautifully handled, the menu excellent, not only in choice but also in preparation, and the liquors, including the champagne, were up to that high standard which one always associates with Mike Van Beuren.

I have heard many comments since from those who were honored in being present, and I can assure you that what I have said about the party is concurred in by the others.

Practically every one of your guests on Saturday night has come to look forward to the dinner by the president as one of the outstanding events of the season. I, for one, would forego any other party in order that I might be your guest on that night.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Mr. M. M. Van Beuren
Paradise Avenue
Newport, R.I.

0211

2 November 1948

Gentlemen:

Yesterday I received a statement of dividend credit from you based on my Policy No. 8 663 702A. I am astonished to note that the total dividend on this policy, which is equivalent to an endowment policy, amounts to the extremely limited sum of \$2.29, and that my total paid-up addition is \$208.00. This means that during the year 1947 my dividend was practically non-existent. This appears surprising to me, as it was my understanding that 1947 was a boom year.

In writing this letter I am not so concerned concerning myself as I am of the other men on my ship who, on my advice, took out one of these Army-Navy policies while I was on the RAMAPO at San Diego. As I recollect, the Metropolitan was the only insurance company allowed on the ships at the time because it had this reportedly excellent policy for naval personnel.

This policy has been paid up for many years, and it seems to me that the dividend credits, at least for last year, are far below what might have been expected from the relatively large paid up value of the policy.

I should appreciate a comment from you on this matter.

Very truly yours,

R. W. Bates

Metropolitan Life Ins. Co.
Home Office
1 Madison Avenue
New York 10, N.Y.

0212

2 November 1948

Dear Cal:

I noted with interest that you had been assigned to command the Fleet Air Command at Jacksonville, Florida. I hope that this is an excellent assignment and one which will gratify you exceedingly. If you are pleased, I also am pleased. However, for your personal information, I had hoped that you would relieve Jerry Bogan as ComAirLant. I advocated this in the right circles strongly; pointed out that as CVE Commander in the Pacific in war your performance had been universally outstanding; that Vice Admiral Oldendorf had thought you a splendid combat commander; and that therefore you should be given a most advanced assignment. Some day I will tell you more about this.

With hopes that you are delighted, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Rear Admiral C. T. Durgin
Commandant Naval Air Bases
11th and 12th Naval Districts
San Diego, California

0213

8 November 1948

Dear Mr. Southgate:

I received your letter of 4 November with reference to the success you are attaining with your script on the Battle of the Coral Sea. I am sure that all of the credit for this success attaches to yourself.

Since I noted the postscript on your letter with reference to your study of Mahan, I am more than ever convinced that you will become extraordinarily persuasive on naval matters.

I look forward to seeing your completed script and the picture-sketches, so come to Newport when you can.

The Midway volume is now out, and I am already hearing from it. I will mark one up as you suggest, but I do not plan to give it to you until the Coral Sea is well settled. It is bad enough for me to have my head filled with Coral Sea, Midway and Savo Island; to have your head also crammed with these three would adversely affect each so much.

If you insist on reading one of these Midways in advance, I suggest that you draw one from the Bureau of Personnel or from the Naval Air Station Anacostia safe.

With warmest personal regards in which the whole office staff join me, I am as ever,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Mr. Howard Southgate
Project Supervisor
U.S. Naval Photographic Center
Naval Air Station
Anacostia 20, D.C.

0214

9 November 1948

Buick Automobile Corp.
Flint, Michigan

Gentlemen:

I am the owner of one of your 1941 Sedanettes which until recently gave me excellent service. I found occasion to have it overhauled because of excess oil consumption. Since the overhauling, I find that I am now making 11 miles per gallon on the highway, I am consuming 1 quart of oil per hundred miles, and carry an oil pressure of 20 lbs. on the highway and practically nothing when passing through towns.

Can you advise me as to what mileage I should expect per gallon, what oil pressure I should have when running warm, and how much oil I should consume per hundred miles? This information is desired here, as both the Ship's Service officer in charge of the garage and I are not sure of what is right, and we desire to make the car satisfactory.

A prompt reply to the above would be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

R. W. Bates

0215

10 November 1948

Dear Mr. Riso:

As you perhaps know, I finally sent you the final payment on the tuxedo which you made for me. As I wrote you originally, it is well done, but in my mind it is a little loose. I have had it dry-cleaned but I still believe that the trousers don't fit too well.

My reluctance to fully pay you is due to the fact that, in my experience, when one fully pays, one never is able to get the job done again. For example, my automobile was recently overhauled, and I was told by the Navy, as the Navy overhauled it, that I was supposed to pay right away. I demurred, but I finally paid. What has happened? The whole overhaul was unsatisfactory, the car burns more oil and makes less miles per gallon than it did before the overhaul. I have been in a constant fight for a month to get the damn thing properly repaired without additional cost to me. The Navy now agrees to do this, but a less stalwart fighter than I am would have been paying twice for this simple job.

I am enclosing a small piece of cloth from one of my uniforms. Can you send half a yard of similar material, as I wish to repair one of my coats?

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Mr. Gene Riso
12 East 46th St.
New York, N.Y.

0216

Signed and mailed

NOV 12 1948

H03/F14/00/1733

10 November 1948

From: Captain R. W. Bates, U.S.N.
To: Chief of Naval Personnel.
Via: President, Naval War College
Subj: Information for Selection Board.
Ref: Alnav 66

1. The following information with reference to my official record is submitted to complete the record.

(a) In the spring of 1942 Rear Admiral O.M. Hustvedt, Chief of Staff to Admiral Royal Ingersoll, Cinc Atlantic Fleet, visited me at the Naval War College where I was on the staff. He told me that Admiral Ingersoll had recommended me to relieve Captain Oscar Badger as Commanding Officer of the USS NORTH CAROLINA, then with the British Grand Fleet. He further said that I was to be prepared to leave immediately. I was delighted at this honor, but heard nothing more about it.

(b) Some time after the Battle of Surigao Strait, in the Battle for Leyte Gulf, October 1944, Vice Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf sent for me--I was his Chief of Staff--and informed me that he was recommending me for immediate promotion to Rear Admiral in view of my outstanding performance of duty. He showed me a despatch, now in my record, which stated, in part, "Recommend Captain Richard Waller Bates, signal number 9027, to immediate promotion to Rear Admiral for demonstrated superiority in action against the enemy." Nothing further came of this recommendation.

(c) After the landing at Lingayen, January 1945, Vice Admiral Oldendorf and I were directed to report to the Fleet Admiral C. W. Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief Pacific Fleet at Guam. Upon our reporting, Admiral Nimitz pointed at me in the presence of Vice Admiral Oldendorf and said, "Your work is so fine that I am going to promote you now." Naturally I was elated. Admiral Nimitz directed both Vice Admiral Oldendorf and myself to proceed to Washington, D.C. to discuss "suicide planes, their tactics, and recommended methods of defense." We arrived at Pearl Harbor

0217

the next day. There Vice Admiral McMorris, Chief of Staff Pacific Fleet, met me. He said, "I have just returned from Washington where among other things I have seen COMINCH and his highest staff about you. Admiral Nimitz wants you made a Rear Admiral now, but I don't know whether you are going to get it or not." I heard nothing more about it.

(d) Upon the return of Vice Admiral Oldendorf and myself from Washington to Ulithi, early March 1945, we were both hospitalized on the Relief because of serious physical damage resulting from a collision of our skimmer with a buoy. Rear Admiral Morton Deyo was designated to relieve temporarily Vice Admiral Oldendorf as Commander Bombardment Force for the OKINAWA operation. While I was disabled on the Relief, Commander 5th Fleet, Admiral R. A. Spruance, visited me and told me that it was essential that I go on board the TENNESSEE as Chief of Staff for Admiral Deyo, even though I was physically unfit, provided, of course, that I could swim. He said that I could at least serve as advisor to the Admiral. I wrote to Admiral Deyo and asked him to help me off the hospital ship, which he did. The hospital ship first refused to let me go, but later agreed, on condition that I accept full responsibility should unhappy physical results occur to me. I agreed, and functioned as Chief of Staff during most of the operation, although I was almost a physical wreck.

2. From about May 30, 1944, when I was detached from command of the MINNEAPOLIS to CINCPAC's staff until about February 20, 1945, when I was temporarily in Washington from the Western Pacific, no fitness reports nor letters of service were forwarded by either Admiral Nimitz or Admiral Oldendorf. My record was a complete blank. During this time I had written USF 10B for CINCPAC and had participated in the capture of Pelelieu, Leyte and Lingayen as Chief of Staff for Admiral Oldendorf. In February 1945 Admiral Oldendorf, while in Washington, made out the report of that date. The CINCPAC report was not forwarded until much later.

R. W. Bates

NC3/P14/00/1733
Naval War College
Newport, R.I.

1st End. on Capt. Bates' ltr dtd
10 November 1948

10 November 1948

From: President, Naval War College
To: Chief of Naval Personnel

1. Forwarded.

C. L. Nelson
Captain, U.S.N.
By Direction

0218

14 November 1948

Dear Dave:

Your letter of 9 November is at hand and I found it extremely interesting.

Naturally I am envious of your wonderful experience in Palestine, and I am proud of your ability to make correct decisions under pressure. I have no doubt, as you appear to indicate in your letter, that your War College training, and in particular your experience in the Analysis Section, had a considerable effect in enabling you to formulate your ideas into concrete plans.

I think I told you before that the Battle of the Coral Sea was received in a highly satisfactory manner by many of the high command. I have heard some reports from the Midway volume but nothing very deep as yet, as they are just going out. When you look at it I think you won't recognize very much of it, as it took months to continue the work which you and Dickey had started.

Savo Island is now underway, and as usual the progress is very slow. This is particularly so in the Battle of Savo Island, as the importance of the action is magnified in the eyes of many because it was our first serious defeat in many years. We are discovering considerable information which clarifies the battle to a degree, but I am reluctant to comment without all of the facts.

I regret to say that copies of your presentations are no longer available at the College. A house cleaning was made of the Stack Room, and everything was destroyed, with the single exception, in some cases, of one copy of an important writing. For that reason there is one copy each of the three lectures to which you refer, but none are available for issue.

0219

Once again let me congratulate you upon your successful trip and upon your successful duty elsewhere. And once again let me express my appreciation of your assistance in my section, not only in the Battle of the Coral Sea but also in the early phases of the Battle of Midway.

Very sincerely,

R. W. Bates

Capt. S. D. Willingham
Room 2614
Main Navy Building
Navy Department
Washington, D.C.

0220

17 November 1948

Dear Admiral Shafroth:

I was very pleased to receive, a day or so ago, a request from the General Board for four additional copies of the Battle of Midway. I recollect that Vice Admiral McMorris, when he was President of the General Board, told me that he and other members had read the Coral Sea from cover to cover. I am extremely interested, naturally, in your reactions to the Battle of Midway, as my objective in preparing these evaluations is to endeavor to present the true facts and, wherever possible, the problems which confronted the principal commanders on both sides at all times.

I received an extraordinary amount of friendly comment on the Battle of the Coral Sea. It is of interest that those who have read Midway feel that it is better than its predecessor. It is a much greater work as regards labor and size.

As a matter of information, I recommended to Admiral Spruance that we not publish any of these studies until the principal commanders concerned had had an opportunity to read them and comment; then if the comment seemed suitable, the book would be changed to suit the comment. The Admiral approved. As a consequence, the Battle of the Coral Sea was read along these lines by Admirals Fitch and Fletcher. It was also read by Admirals Spruance, Hewitt, Smith and others. The Battle of Midway has been studied by both Admirals Spruance and Theobald, to say nothing of others such as Admiral Smith, who was Chief of Staff for Vice Admiral Pye with Task Force 1, and by Admiral Brown, Captain Sylvester, and by certain students of the War College in committee.

We are now working on Savo Island, and hope to be able to produce a comprehensive story and to show what motivated the commanders on both sides from about August 1st until about August 12th. The background, which is of course the hardest part, is practically finished.

0221

I was very pleased when I discovered that you had gone to the General Board; for with your vast command and staff experience you should be able to accomplish a great deal.

With warmest regards to yourself and to the members of the Board, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Rear Admiral John F. Shafroth
President, General Board
Navy Department
Washington, D.C.

0222

18 November 1948

Dear Gordon:

I was awfully happy when you took the cheese. I hope that it has lived up to its notices. The one which I gave the Reading Room was finally consumed yesterday and met with extraordinary approval. Gus White thinks that it is almost too rich for a Bar cheese. This cheese cost me 90¢ a pound plus 15¢ for postage, or \$1.05 a pound. Therefore, you owe me roughly \$5.00, as your cheese was approximately five pounds.

You are very badly missed around the Reading Room. The day after you left, I came in and asked for you. Two or three of the members of the pool league said, "Gordon has gone and is missed already. He really is a good guy."

With best regards to yourself and to Shirley, I am as ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. Bates

Mr. Gordon Douglas
250 Park Avenue
New York City

0223

20 November 1948

Dear Roberta:

It was extremely thoughtful of you to write me that letter concerning the welfare of the Bateses, the Underwoods, the Wallaces, the Spruances and the Lions. I was, of course, greatly interested to hear of the many things you mentioned in your short note.

I was very sorry to hear of Bob Adams' death. From the time I first met him at Hitchcock Military Academy until now, I have always considered him a very high type, loyal, thoroughly devoted citizen. I don't quite recall whom he married, but I think it was Helen Coogan; if it was, please convey my sincerest sympathy.

I was also distressed to hear of the passing of Mrs. Wallace. I had already heard of this from mother, and I expect to drop the Underwoods a note concerning this. Frances and Judge were devoted to her and gave much of their time to her welfare. As a consequence, it is my hope that her estate will be so divided as to insure that the Underwoods need worry no more.

The party given by the Underwoods and the Lions of Carmel for the Spruances was without doubt delightful. Everyone loved the Spruances in Newport, and the Admiral's success at the War College was very marked. I know that they both enjoyed the recognition given them by the above two hosts.

I imagine that Bill Knowland was stunned by the Republican defeat in the new election. I wasn't stunned. I had noted here on the Naval Base a marked swing toward the President, particularly after his speech at Madison Square Garden. In fact some of the help wanted to bet me that Truman would get in easily. None of us understood the type of campaign which was conducted by the Republicans, but there it was. In our type of government you must take your case to the people; you can't hold yourself aloof from them. Such an idea is equally applicable in the military service, and was repeatedly demonstrated in the last war.

0224

I hope that you are in the best of health and enjoying your beloved California. Take care of yourself, and thanks very much. As ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. Bates

Miss Roberta Lion
912 Paru St.
Alameda, Calif.

0225

20 November 1948

Gentlemen:

I received your letter with a great deal of surprise, as it was my belief that General Motors would reply "on the line."

I have been to the Buick Agency here in Newport. They have looked at my car--they are of the belief that the engine job is not well done--and they say openly that it will have to be done again. On the other hand, the Ship's Service garage here on the Naval Base overhauled the car and are trying to tell me that 20 lbs. of oil pressure on the highway at 45 miles per hour is good, and that no oil pressure when passing through towns is also good. They will not listen to the statements of the Buick Agency here, on the grounds that the local agency objects to the Ship's Service doing business which the local agency would normally have. This, of course, is silly.

For your information, the car was broken down, the engine rebored, new rings provided and the bearings supposedly checked and refitted. When I went into the garage with my car it was making about 16 miles per gallon on the highway and about 9 in town. It was burning a quart of oil for every 50 miles while on the highway; much less in town.

Since the overhaul, I have made 11 miles per gallon on the highway and less than 7 miles per gallon in town. My oil pressure is no better than it was when the car was first put in the garage.

It was for this reason that I thought it wise to write to you, and the Ship's Service officer here concurred in my view, as did your Buick Agency here, that we get a statement from the Buick people in Flint, Michigan. For some reason entirely unknown to me, Buick saw fit to transfer this letter to you.

Since my original letter, I have had the Buick Company here overhaul the carburetor and put in new fittings. They said that the needle valve was worn and in poor shape and the needles badly bent. The repairs should improve my mileage but they should not

0226

improve my oil pressure.

I cannot see why I cannot obtain from you a statement about as follows: (a) On a properly overhauled Buick engine with the car in good condition, the Buick Company expects that a Buick of 1941 vintage, having gone only 55,000 miles, should make about 20 miles per gallon on the highway and about 12 in town. (b) The oil pressure should average above 30 pounds at any speed and about 45 pounds at 45 miles per hour. (c) The oil consumption should not exceed more than 1 quart for 500 miles on the highway when operating at about 50 miles per hour.

Very frankly, I have been a Buick owner for years, but I am becoming less and less convinced that the Buick, and evidently the Buick Company, are equal to the product and the company of ten years ago.

I should appreciate a reply to the questions submitted above which I feel that as a Buick owner I am entitled to know.

Sincerely,

R. W. Bates

Buick Motor Division - *Mr. J. F. Andrews*
General Motors Corp.
131 Clarendon St.
Boston 16, Mass

0227

23 November 1948

Dear Gilmore:

I had a very interesting chat with you the other night, and I am sorry that I found it necessary to bother you. However, the matter appeared to me to be urgent at the time, and I am grateful for your ready clarification of the problem. Needless to say, I was astonished to note that you were on the job at such an hour.

I am returning to you two tickets in Section NC, Row 16, seats 19 and 20 for the Army-Navy game next Saturday. I am sorry that I cannot use them, but I feel confident that someone else can.

With great expectations of a hard fought football game, I am with warmest regards to everyone,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Captain Morris D. Gilmore
Naval Academy Athletic Association
Hotel Bellevue-Stratford
Philadelphia, Pa.

0228

29 November 1948

Dear Elsa:

As I told you yesterday on the telephone, I most thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of being a guest with you at the Commandant's home.

The party was very gay, the weather perfectly charming, the guests equally so, the luncheon excellently chosen for the day, and the John Barley Corn derivatives seemed to please everyone. You may not know it but the thought of going to your pre-game luncheon is one of the ties which pull me to Philadelphia. Of course the other one is my old friend Kitty Wear whom I see about once a year. My visit with her this time was an extremely happy one, as her new house is charming and not too big.

I was quite serious when I spoke over the phone of the possibility of your able and beloved husband getting an assignment as the Ambassador to the Philippines. The situation out there is not good--the state has had difficulty with the Huks, and the whole Chinese situation, which seriously affects the Philippines, is bad. A man of Reggie's knowledge of the Philippines and his war experience should be of invaluable assistance to our Nation in the position of Ambassador. Whether he would be given such an assignment today, I do not know, because it may be that President Truman may have to pay off certain debts by giving Ambassadorships to those who yell loud enough. On the other hand, he must realize the ticklish situation there and in the World and the need for competent hands at the "Wheel of State" during the stormy days ahead.

I got a big kick out of your daughter who came running up to me with a loud cheer. I haven't seen her for a long time so it was with delight that I noticed how well and young she looks. All of this means that she is extremely happy.

I am sorry that I didn't get more time to talk to you or to Reggie over the wassail bowl. I have such a deep and abiding affection for both of you that I feel disappointed when I can't get together for a time.

0229

The game, of course, was wonderful, and our Navy team lived up to the high traditions of the past. An Army-Navy game doesn't mean a damn thing insofar as records are concerned. When the boys get together they fight it out. I think that the manner in which they went after West Point must have impressed the President, and I feel that the President may, as a result, be a little more friendly towards the Navy than perhaps he has been. "Big oaks from little acorns grow."

I don't know what is going to happen to me. I certainly do not expect to be promoted by the Selection Board. If they do choose me it would be in my mind a miracle of justice. But justice rarely prevails! I have taken my annual physical, and although no definite decision has been arrived at yet, I am quite sure that they busted me. In fact I am to report into the hospital in a day or so for further study. Whatever the medical decision, I think I should like to continue this work for the present anyway, and perhaps for longer, if factors which are slowing my work now are clarified. For example, we are having difficulty in obtaining Japanese translations. This is not the fault of the Navy Department but of the Intelligence organization of the government which has its translators working on other matters.

I appreciate everything that has been done for me by Reggie. I know that he is extremely loyal to me and in return I can assure him that he has never wanted for a friend in me. I only support those whom I feel merit that support. My criterion is "service to the Flag." I have little use for those whose criterion is "service to each other." Reggie qualifies in the van of the first category.

Take care of yourselves, and thanks again for your kind thought in asking both Mrs. Wear and myself to attend your affair. As a matter of interest, Mrs. Wear is very pleased at your remarks concerning her appearance. As others said more or less the same thing, she is satisfied that you really believe it, and perhaps believes it herself. Maybe that is where she lost those 10 years.

With warmest personal regards to you both, I am as ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. Bates

Mrs. J.L.Kauffman
Commandant's House
Philadelphia, Pa.

0230

30 November 1948

Dear Alan:

I received your letter with reference to my letter on the loss of your brother Charlie with a great deal of interest. I was particularly interested in your reaction to my thought of a future life. This thought is the rock on which our Christendom stands, and I have never really found anyone who didn't believe that there was some sort of Valhalla for all of us. The nearer we got to the enemy the more hopeful men were that this was so, as many feared that Valhalla would be their future home. Old sailors never die, they just sail away!

I was also interested in the newspaper clipping which I am returning in which I appreciate your sending me. I never was a Phi Delta Koppa, although I was bid SFU while at Hitchcock Military Academy and turned it down. Edward and Jocelyn both became SFU's and enjoyed it. As I look at this picture I can plainly see that nearly everyone of the gentlemen concerned has been highly successful in life. This shows that small-town training is a good thing even though there may be bawdy cities such as San Francisco's Barbary Coast nearby.

With warmest personal regards to yourself and with repeated assurance that the Bates' family will always hold the Fields in deepest esteem, I am as ever,

Your Old Friend,

Mr. Alan Field
58 Sutter Street
San Francisco 4, Calif.

0231

30 November 1948

Dear Mr. Southgate:

I was very interested to receive your letter concerning the plans for the movie of the Battle of the Coral Sea. I wouldn't rush the matter if I were you, but would endeavor to do the best job possible.

I am sending you a copy of the Battle of Midway marked up as I did for the Battle of the Coral Sea, which I hope that you can find useful. It will probably occur that when we go over what you have written for Midway, other points will be found important which have at the present moment been omitted. I am rushing this letter to you as I am going to the hospital for a few days and I want you to have the best there is.

I will comment on your idea of a history of the Navy at a later date, but at the present time I agree also that it could well be broken down into short films rather than have one long film. However, I don't choose to discuss it at the present moment as I have given it no thought whatsoever.

With warmest regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Mr. Howard Southgate
U.S. Naval Photographic Center
Naval Air Station
Anacostia 20, D.C.

0232

30 November 1948

Dear Bodie:

For the life of me I cannot recollect the name of your law firm, and therefore I am addressing this letter to the Mid-day Club where I hope it will be found by you. In so doing I hope that I am not embarrassing you.

What I am writing to you about is to thank you very much for your courtesy in asking me to lunch with you at the Mid-day Club. Needless to say, I not only enjoyed the luncheon but also I enjoyed seeing Hubert Earle again. He is evidently a pretty clever fellow, and I look for both of you to go a long way in your chosen professions.

I think that Hubert's connection with a firm headed by John Hamilton is of interest because George Earle was very much of a Democratic new dealer and John Hamilton is almost the reverse in a Republican way. I suppose that it is smart politics to have all shades in a law firm so that business will be flowing from all directions. Perhaps Hubert is Republican.

I was delighted to see what a happy family you have built for yourself. Of course, as you well know, I have been very fond of your wife for many years--from the time she was a very tiny girl--and now to see her in the full bloom of happy womanhood with her two wonderful daughters, makes me extremely happy. I think that both Alice and Kate couldn't be more interesting nor better behaved, and I am impressed with the manner in which you have succeeded in maintaining their interests in sensible matters. You seem somehow--at least that is my impression in seeing them around--to be able to keep their minds along an educational plane, such as drawing pictures, etc., and thereby to make them less and less troublesome. There is an old adage that the best way to test an adult's ability to control children is to put the adult in a room with young children and to leave him or her there for perhaps one-half hour. If on return you find the children listening attentively, then you know that

0233

the adult is mentally qualified to handle children. If on the other hand you find him on the floor with the children riding him piggy-back, then you know that he is not mentally capable of interesting children. Perhaps your children are peculiarly able to employ their own resources in achieving interested happiness.

I am glad that you enjoyed the football game; certainly I did. The Navy is receiving due applause in the Press for its spirit which refused to pay attention to the Press notices preceding the game.

Needless to say, I got a tremendous kick again out of your beloved mother-in-law. She has been a friend of mine so long that I almost feel that I belonged and was a permanent part of the family. What a woman she is!

Take care of yourself, and here's hoping I see you again soon.

As ever,

Your Old Friend,

Mr. Howard W. Taylor, Attorney-at-Law
Mid-Day Club
Fidelity Building
Broad St.
Philadelphia, Pa.

0234

9027/1100

7 December 1948

From: Captain R. W. Bates, USN
To: Chief of Naval Personnel
Subj: Dates of Rank

1. I request that I be provided with the following information as soon as practicable which is desired for a Board of Medical Survey:

The dates of my temporary and permanent commissions for each rank from Ensign up to and including Commodore.

R. W. Bates

NC3/1716
S:RK

1st end. on Ltr of
Capt. R. W. Bates, USN of
7 December 1948

From: President, Naval War College
To: Chief of Naval Personnel

1. Forwarded.

G. L. Melson
Capt. USN
By direction

0235

7 December 1948

Dear Old Chick:

I received your letter with a great deal of interest, but I have been unable to reply to it for two reasons. First, because I went to the Army-Navy game the same day, and secondly, because I went to the hospital on my return from the Army-Navy game, where I am now being surveyed for disability retirement.

With regard to the football game, needless to say, I enjoyed it very much indeed. I had the good fortune to sit beside Swede and Emily Overesh and their daughter, Emily--now Mrs. Jimmy Castle of Honolulu. Swede is the same old guy that he ever was, and is as enthusiastic about football as anyone could possibly be. Both he and Emily were screaming so loud that although I was right behind the midshipmen, I couldn't hear the midshipmen at all. I took my good friend, Mrs. Wear, and found her perfectly wonderful as always. While at the game I saw Stewie Clark, Art Davis, Scott Baker and Glen Easton, but few, if any, others. You would have enjoyed everything. Ted Breed is in bed with virus pneumonia but is rapidly recovering.

As regards my physical retirement, I did not pass my annual physical, which I suppose the Selection Board knew; although I had no expectations of being promoted. I am in an age band which is so ancient as to scarcely give credence that I ever lived. This, to me, is most extraordinary when one considers that most of the leaders of Congress--the 81st Congress--are in the 60-70 age band. We will probably get some good legislation out of them too, because I think that the grey hairs will hold back boistrous and unthinking youth. My physical disability, of course, is my left branch block to my heart which is slowing me down, and edema is showing up in my legs. The medical profession say that I can write and lecture, but I am to take no pressure job whatsoever.

I was glad to hear that you are so happily set. I have no doubt but that Rosalie is enchanted to be back at home again in Richmond with the friends of her childhood. As you are a Richmond boy yourself, you also must be revelling in a new-found freedom. What I will do when they retire me, if they

0236

do, I do not know. There is a rumor that they may desire me to continue writing these books. This I will be glad to do providing the medical board approves and providing I get flag rank out of it, as I will be retired as a Rear Admiral.

Thanks very much for your letter. I enjoyed it a great deal. I couldn't help laughing though, to note that you have finally taken a job where you can put your engineering P.G. to use.

Give my very best to Rosalie. With warmest personal regards, I am as ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. Bates

R.Adm. R.O.Glover
4308 Cambridge Road
Windsor Farms
Richmond 21, Va.

0237

15 December 1948

Dear Pineau:

I can't thank you too much for your painstaking efforts in correcting the names of the ships at both Midway and the Coral Sea.

I am returning to you via this envelope, my new line-up of the Japanese ships which I hope you will re-check to be sure that it is as sound as we can make it. I will handle Midway later.

I hope you will note the note on the frontispiece for the discussion of the Japanese Admiral. I think it wise to write it this way because all who have read the references agree that it is possible that Hara actually was the OTC and not Takagi, as reported in 1948.

I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Fellows with your accomplishments are rare within this great Navy of ours, and I look for you to be of help for a long time to come.

With warmest regards to everyone, I am as ever,

Yours very sincerely,

R. W. Bates

Lieut. R. Pineau, USNR
Office of Naval History
Room 1223
Department of the Navy
Washington, D.C.

0238

15 December 1948

Dear Bogy:

I hope I haven't delayed too long in replying to your kind letter with reference to Mr. Paul Palmer. However, it took a little time to collect some data in refutation of Mr. Huie's article, which data I am now forwarding to you. What you do with it from this moment forth is entirely up to you.

I will see you around presently. Thanks for your Christmas card. As ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. Bates

G. Bogart Blakeley
"Tusitala"
Huneyman Hill
Newport, R.I.

0239

16 December 1948

Hartford Accident & Indemnity Co.
15 Westminster St.
Providence, R.I.

Atten: Mr. F. J. Martin

Dear Mr. Martin:

Needless to say, I received your letter of December 15th with a great deal of consternation. I have been wondering for a month why my bill had not been paid. I forwarded to you the pink proof of loss, which you requested me to forward, about two months ago. I have paid Mr. Wetherell \$75.00, and the check has been returned to me by my bank as paid.

What do I do now?

Very truly yours,

R. W. Bates

0240

16 December 1948

McLean Goldberg Bowen
Sutter at Grant Avenue
San Francisco, Calif.

Gentlemen:

Please send one box of your dried glace fruits of the
26th series to each of the addresses listed below:

Mr. & Mrs. William Whitehouse
Stone Villa
Bellevue Ave. (26-444)
Newport, R.I.

Mr. & Mrs. Gustave J.S. White
28 Greenough Place (26-443)
Newport, R.I.

Rear Admiral & Mrs. Paul Bastedo
Whitehaven
73 Catherine St. (26-443)
Newport, R.I.

Vice Admiral & Mrs. Donald Beary
President's House
Naval War College (26-443)
Newport, R.I.

Rear Admiral & Mrs. C.R. Brown
Quarters I
Naval War College (26-443)
Newport, R.I.

Captain & Mrs. Kenneth Castleman
Chart House
Oakwood Terrace (26-443)
Newport, R.I.

0241

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Bruguiere Wakehurst Ochre Point Newport, R.I.	(26-443)
Mrs. Diana Ryan Vanclose Farm Newport, R.I.	(26-443)
Mr. & Mrs. George Tyson Beachmound Bellevue Avenue Newport, R.I.	(26-443)
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Phelps 5 Red Cross Ave. Newport, R.I.	(26-442)
Vice Admiral S. A. Taffinder 20 Sea View Ave. Newport, R.I.	(26-442)
Mr. & Mrs. G. Bogart Blakeley "Tusitala" Honeyman Hill Middletown, R.I.	(26-442)
Mr. & Mrs. John Richmond Seaward Cliff Ave. Newport, R.I.	(26-442)
Captain & Mrs. Archibald Douglas 58 Kay St. Newport, R.I.	(26-442)
Admiral & Mrs. E. C. Kalbfus Restmere Miantonomi Ave. Newport, R.I.	(26-442)
Mr. & Mrs. LeRoy King Indian Spring Mooreland Road Newport, R.I.	(26-442)

Reverend & Mrs. Andrew Wilson
Ayrault House
45 Catherine St.
Newport, R.I.

(26-442)

Commander & Mrs. James O. Cobb
Naval War College
Newport, R.I.

(26-442)

Commander & Mrs. Walter Innis
12 Mt. Vernon St.
Newport, R.I.

(26-442)

Please place one of these greeting cards in each package.

I should appreciate a prompt delivery.

Sincerely,

R. W. Bates
Capt. USN

0243